## Vol.XLIII...No. 13,538.

THE NEWS IN LONDON.

THE DEBATE ON THE TONQUIN CREDIT BILL.

HICKS PACHA'S DEFEAT-CABINET MATTERS-MR.

GOSCHEN'S DECLINATION. [BY CAPLE TO THE TRIBUNE.]

LONDON, Dec. 8 .- No inferences can be drawn from yesterday's unfinished debate on the Tonquin credit bill in the French Chamber. The Paris correspondents expect that the credit will be voted, but drop ominous hints of an accompanying vote of consure on M. Ferry, more of whose duplicities and deceptions stare them in the face as they turn over the Yellow Book. The Bourse's dispatches last May prove that the Ministers were fully informed and were explicitly warned of the certainty that the Chinese were determined to resist further French incursions in Tonquin, and were able to offer formidable opposition. A further dispatch from Marquis Tseng, not included in the Yellow Book, and the existence of which was denied by the Ferry journals, appeared to-day, dated December 5, expressing the hope that Admiral Courbet would be ordered not to approach Bac-Ninh or Sontay, and declaring that such an act would be deemed by China as inconsistent with French professions of a desire for peace. The French official journals nevertheless during the week kept repeating that China was ready to abandon those positions, and that Admiral Courbet's expected attack was delayed despite the pressure from Prime Minister

LACK OF ENERGY IN EGYPT.

Bits of evidence continue to come from Egypt confirming the destruction of Hicks Pacha's army. Baker Pacha remains at Cairo hurrying forward reluctant troops. The transport facilities are deficient, the English and Egyptian authorities alike showing a lack of energy. There appears to be slight hope of saving Khartoum.

DENYING DIVISIONS IN THE CABINET.

The oratorical duel between Lord Hartington and Mr. Chamberlain continues, the critics inferring from Lord Hartington's moderation and Mr. Chamberlain's audacity that the Radical programme is likely to carry the day in the Cabinet. Every Ministerial speaker denies any division in the Cabinet, Mr. Chamberlain himself calmly declaring that he is quite unaware of any, but Lord Salisbury in an amusing speech at Watford on Thursday catalogued the contradictions between the public statements by members of the Cabinet on franchise and other questions, and predicted Lord Hartingion's ultimate surrender. The Tories threaten to mestion the Ministers at the opening of the session is to whether they will accept or reject Mr. Chamberlain's declaration in favor of manhood mffrage. Mr. Childers, while professing to be unable to disclose Cabinet purposes, asserts posiavely that reform in the London municipality will secompany a reformed franchise at the next session. Among all these speeches Mr. Trevelyan's on ireland is really the most important, embodying a careful, and, on the whole, successful, defeuce of the Irish policy of the Government, and giving an meouraging account of the economical condition of mail. It seems probable that the line of policy eventually ireland, where rents are now paid regularly. Outmeouraging account of the economical condition of ages have diminished and boycotting has ceased, and there are signs of agricultural prosperity n every province.

A RECEPTION TO LORD ROSSMORE.

The political condition must be described n far different terms, recent events in Ulster md elsewhere showing that nothing but the Queen's Government stands between Ireland and civil war. An enthusiastic public reception was given to Lord Rossmore yesterday at Monighan, a crowded meeting protesting against his semoval from his position as a Commissioner of the Peace as an insult to loyal subjects in Ireland. Ulster pretty plainly sympathizes with Lord Rossnore, and is puzzled because the Government cen-

THE SPEAKERSHIP OF THE COMMONS. Mr. Goschen's final refusal to accept the Speaker-

thip of the House of Commons saves a first-class statesman to active public life. The extreme raditals would have been happy to see so able and moderate a Liberal shelved. Arthur Peel has consented to accept the post, for which, though not in the tront rank of politicians, he is quite good enough.

THE MESSAGE AND CARLISLE'S ELECTION.

The President's message arouses but languid inerest, and the comments are without point. Mr. Carlisle's election was first telegraphed here as a lecisive triumph for free trade. The English press, earning prudence from repeated delusions, received the news with cautions hopefulness. The Economist, while conceding the improbability of tariff legislaion at this session of Congress, is sanguine enough to expect that before long a decided step will be nade toward free trade. Reflection confirms the Irst English view of the Suez canal agreement. It s a fairly satisfactory compromise of the financial and administrative disputes, leaving political questions and M. de Lesseps's claim to the monopoly to

be included in a future settlement, MR. TENNYSON AND THE PEERAGE.

Conflicting reports appeared at intervals during the week respecting Mr. Tennyson and the peerage. it is assured on high authority that the offer was inquestionably made six weeks ago. Mr. Tennyon fully intends to accept, though the question is apposed to be complicated by the recent engagenent of his eldest son to a young lady with every idmirable quality, but without fortune. There is trather strong public feeling against his acceptmee on the ground of incongruity between Mr. l'ennyson's peculiar claims to distinction and the proposed method of rewarding them.

Something very like a quarrel arose in the scienlific world from Mr. Romanes's reading before the Linnean a Society paper by Darwin on animal nstinet, which Huxley thought added nothing to Darwin's fame or the existing stock of scientific knowledge. Mr. Romanes admits that the paper was never revised, but insists that the publication was left to his own discretion. A slight feeling arose also in regard to the proposed memorial to Mr. Spottiswoode, which his friends deem inadequate. The matter was compromised by forming a second committee agreeing to a portrait or a bust to be placed in the Royal Society building.

NEW BOOKS. Two considerable books have just been published she was sixteen years of age; that they

from the rental of the Comedy Theatre. Elfreda stated

NEW-YORK, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1883-TWELVE PAGES.

-Sir Theodore Martin's Life of Lord Lyndhurst, a successful attemyt to refute Lord Campbell's biography, but otherwise heavy; and the first two volumes of Lord Lytton's life of his father, comprising thirty years and largely autobigraphi-

THEATRICAL AND PERSONAL.

"Claudian," by Henry Herman and W. G. Wills, was produced on Thursday at the Princess Theatre. It was a bold attempt to popularize the poetical drams, depending for its success partly upon the imaginative treatment of an almost impossible motive, and partly upon the elaborate scenic effects. The audience was puzzled and received the play rather coldly. The real triumph of the evening was Wilson Barrett's acting, but the press awards high credit to the authors.

The reported dissatisfaction of the Belgian African Association with Stanley, and the alleged difficulties between him and the negroes on the

Congo, are authoritatively denied. Lord and Lady Rosebery have abandoned their intention of returning from Australia by way of America. They will sail on January 17 for Eng-

land by the way of the Suez Canal. Mr. Lowell removes from No. 10 Lowndes square at the end of December to No. 31 Lowndes square.

TALK IN THE BRITISH CAPITAL.

INCIDENTS AND GOSSIP FROM ABROAD. IRISH POLITICAL COMPLICATIONS-LITERATURE AND THE DRAMA.

LONDON, Dec. 8.-English home politics seem to have dwindled and diminished until they have become merely a war of words. The party leaders and the members of the Cabinet are still undecided as to the policy of extending the Franchise bill. Ireland will consequently remain unsettled and perturbed on this subject until the Cabinet meetings are resumed, which will not be until after Christmas. Whatever the decision may be it will not lead to a split in the Cabinet. The Irish party is at present chiefly absorbed in its preparations for the banquet to Parnell in Dublin next Tuesday. The Rotunda promises to be on that occasion the scene of a National demonstration. The Lord Mayor of Dublin will preside. The first toast will be " Ireland, a Nation," and Mr. Davitt is expected to respond to it. The leading members of the Irish National party will be among the speakers. Covers will be laid for 600 guests, and besides these the gallery will be occupied by about 600 ladies. Subscriptions to the Parnell Testimonial

Tuesday it will have reached £40,000.

The friendly relations between Parnell and the English Radicals is shown by the fact that Mr. Chamberlain has asked him to recommend a person for the existing vacancy on the local Marine Board at Cork. The Tory press furiously assails Mr. Chamberlain for this conession. The victories of the Nationalists in the last municipal elections have resulted in the appointment of Nationalist mayors in the majority of the corporations. These must necessarily be followed by the appointment of Nationalists to the positions of high sheriffs, as the Vicercy is by law obliged to select one of three names which shall be submitted by the corporations.

Fund are increasing rapidly, and it is expected that before

Earl Spencer has hitherto passed over the names of Nationalists in making his selections to fill these offices but this year, as the corporations will submit Nationalist names and no others, it will be to him a choice of evils. In Dublin, for instance, he will have his option whether to select Aiderman Moore, a pronounced Nationalist; Clancy, the late secretary of the National League; or Harrington, the Nationalist Member of Parliament for Drogheda. Limerick is another place where ex-suspects

THE CONFERENCE IN AUSTRALIA. Earl Granville has postponed action on the resolutions of the conference of the Australian colonies until he has received the official documents from Sydney, in course of insists that France shall abstain from sending her convicts to the South Pacific, and asks that there be brought radual abolition of the French pe

The Garmoyle-Fortescue marriage is an assumed event The story that the latter has accepted a check is untrue The engagement is announced of the Dowager Duchess of Marlborough to Mr. Currie, an attaché of the Foreign

PERSONAL NOTES.

Oulda, writing to The Times, denles that she has been converted to the Catholic religion. She says that she has met Monsignor Capel, whom she found to be a most agreeable person, but he never even mentioned theology o her; she never even heard him preach.

The number of visits by the ex-Empress Eugenie to M. Rouher arose from her desire to obtain certain private papers that the Emperor had confided to him when he left Paris for Sedan, Madame Rouher admits that she gave these papers to M. Rouher's private secretary, and that some of them are lost. Eugenie is anxious to obtain the complete set of documents.

Grand Duke Sergius of Russia is betrothed to Princess Elizabeth of Hesse-Darmstadt, granddaughter of the

The Empress of Austria is suffering with a severe attack of sciatica.

Max Müller writes to The Athenaum that Charles Le-land is doing a useful work among the red Indians of New-Brunswick; that he has induced them to communi cate to him all their traditions, national songs and superstitions, and also the art, which they alone possess, of reading wampum strings. Müller speaks n terms of praise of the revival of American schola and says that with men like Brinton Trumbull, Horatio Hale and Charles Leland, all the reproach that America does nothing for American philology will soon be wiped

Browning has written a sonnet for the album to commemorate the unveiling of the monument to Goldoni in

Alice will not be published until next autumn. Madame Camille Selden, whose intimate relations with

the poet Heine were never made a secret, has issued an edition containing recollections of Heine's last days. The Swiss Federal Council has sent to the different governments of Europe the resolutions adopted by the ate international conference in regard to the protection

of artistic and literary property. It asks that the governments will take part in the diplomatic conference which is to be held in Berne next year.

Long, the academician, has received £7,000 for his " Flight into Egypt."

THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL. Miss Mary Anderson appears to night as Galatea in a costume designed by Tadema. Her engagement in London will continue during Barrett's occupancy of the Lyceum. She will then take some other theatre. The impression is general that Miss Anderson's managers are overdoing the business of " puffing " her. Gossip is continuously circulated respecting her—all being intended to advertise her to the public. It is said that she recently received a telegram from a parvenu millionnaire, "What will you charge for dining at my house ! You will meet the Prince of Wales and will be treated as a guest." The telegram remained unanswered. Miss Anderson attends church at the congregation of the Carmelite Chapel at

Kensington. Manager Hollingshead will establish a permanent French theatre in this city. Sarah Bernhardt and Judie

will open it for the winter season. Salvini announces his intention of making an American tour next year. Colonel Mapleson has issued a fresh circular asking for subscriptions to the new London Opera-House on the

Embankment. Lotta opens the Opera Comique in the role of "Marchioness," in Gilbert and Sullivan's new opera, at the Savoy Theatre, on January 5. It consists of two acts. The de sire of the authors is to class the piece rather as a comic opera than as a buricsque. It has higher musical aims than anything that Sullivan has yet attempted for the stage. The estimates for costumes alone are \$13,500.

Sir Michael Costa desires that the proposed testimonial to him be withdrawn. The fewness of the subscribers would, he thinks, injure his reputation.

Manager Henderson has gained the novel suit brought against him by Elfreda, the nun, for a share of the profit

in court that Henderson betrayed her when

lived together as man and wife for several years, that she nursed him through a dangerous illness, and that she re-ceived from him, in consideration, a deed of moiety rental of the theatre. The defence set up was that the considertion given for the deed was immoral. This view pre-

vailed with the Court. The projected American tour of Materna, Scaria and Winkelmann has lapsed, the Vienna Intendant General having refused his permission.

Gerson, the French agent, has purchased for \$9,000 the exclusive right to produce in America the spectacle 'Sleba," which is now being given in the Eden Theatre at Paris.

The King of Bavaria has given his consent to a repetition of "Parsifal" at Bayreuth this summer. Ten performances will be given. Connie Reeves, daughter of Sims Reeves, has adopted

as the stage on which to make her debut the Brighton Theatre. She is credited with a good voice and with

OPERATIONS OF EL MAIIDI.

DISSENTIONS AMONG HIS FOLLOWERS. ENGLISH AND EGYPTIAN PRISONERS-THE DEFENCE

OF THE FRONTIER. CAIRO, Dec. 8 .- The Mudir of Dongola, in Upper Nubla, telegraphs to the Egyptian Government that the Chiefs of the Kabbabish tribes state that El Mahdi has demanded the submission of those people to his authority, but the chirfs promise that they and their tribes will remain faithful to the Government.

LONDON, Dec. 8.-The dispatches received at Calro to day attribute the failure of El Mahdi to continue his advance on Khartoum to the breaking out of dissense among the heads of the various tribes marching under his banners. Some of these advocate an advance upon Dongola while others prefer an attack on Khartoum. The two factions cannot agree upon a plan of operations. Mudir at Dongola reports to the Egyptian Government, percover, that a defection of the Kababbish tribes to the Madhi will inevitably occur if that leader's forces con tinue their advance. Major Evelyn Baring has sent a dispatch to Col. Coetlogan, insisting that an effort be made at once to communicate by means of emissaries with El Obeid in order to ascertain the truth or faisity of the

once to communicate by means of emissaries with El Obeid in order to ascertain the truth or faisity of the rumors that a portion of Hicks Pacha's force is still entrenched at Berket; also to learn whether the Mahdi will consent to give up the English officers who still remain prisoners in his hands provided a sufficient ransom be paid.

Zebehr Pacha, the agent of the Egyptian Government at Cordovan, has also received instructions to negotiate with the shelks who support the Mahdi for the release of all Egyptian prisoners. Coetlogan has been instructed to build Khartoum until Baker Pacha formally orders him to evacuate it. Baker Pacha has sent a protest to the Minister of War at Cairo, in which he argues that Sunkim should not be made the base of operations, and advocates, as being the beat for strategic purposes, that route up the Valley of the Nile which goes by way of Wadyhalfe.

A decision as to whether Assouam shall be made the base of the combined system of Egyptian defence has been suspended until a declaration shall have been made by Great Britain as to whether England will accept the defence of the frontier. After that question has been settled the line of the Mahdi's advance will be ascertained, and then the question of the objective base will receive attention. Should the Mahdi attack Upper Egypt, proceeding by the way of Dongoia, Baker's force, acting with the forces which can be concentrated at Assonam, will make a stand against him. The troops stationed at Sunkim keep up a continuous blaze, day and night, at the rebels who surround that town. The rebels answer the fire, but no casualities have yet occurred.

The English officers have led sortles on two occasions, and have put the rebel troops to flight, but each time, after pursuing them for a short distance, gave up the chase and returned to the garrison. The consent given by the English Government that Turkish frigates may be permitted to act in concert with the British is coupled with the etipulation that they shall carry no Turkish forces. The

WAR MEASURES OF FRANCE. AN EXPECTED ATTACK ON BAC-NINH AND SONTAY

BY ADMIRAL COURBET. Paris, Dec. S .- The Figure and Gaulois say it is reported that the Marquis Tseng, the Chinese Arabas sador, presented an important dispatch to Prime Minister Ferry on December 5. It has been ascertained, bowever,

that the dispatch merely declares that the relations be-tween the Marquis Tseng and M. Perry have been in no way interrupted, as certain papers have inferred. Admiral Peyron, Minister of Marine, has received a dis

patch from Salgon, dated yesterday, stating that the French forces have reconneitred to within two and a half miles of Bac-Ninh. Admiral Courbet reconnoitred the approaches to Sontay, on the Red River, on November 23. He captured a junk near Hal-Phong, which was The sub-governor of Haid-Zuong having been suspected of acting in collusion with the enemy, has been sent to Salgon for trial. Admiral Courbet in a private letter to the Governor of Cochin China states that operations will

In the Chamber of Deputies to-day the debate upon the Tonquin Credits bill was resumed. M. Delafosse con tinued his remarks in opposition to the policy of the Government. LONDON, Dec. 8 .- The French Government expects to

hear at any time from Admiral Courbet that he has captured Sontay, Bac-Ninh and Honghoa as well. It is doubt ful whether the reconnoissances of the gunboats on the Songkol River discovered Chinese forces on both sides. girl answered the knock, and was told by the stranger The river is strong, however, in its intrenchments which extend along its banks for miles. A reconnoissance made at the same time in the vicinity of Sontay indicated plainly that it would be easy to capture.

plainly that it would be easy to capture.

Lord Lyons, British Ambassador to France, has ceased to make representations to Premier Ferry, as he fluids that the French Government is not disposed to negotiate os any other basis than that of a temporary possession by its forces of Bac Ninh and Sontay. Additional precautions have been taken to defend the treaty ports, the British Admiralty having reinforced its Chinese fiset. No formal agreement has been entered into by the Powers for the protection of European residents at the scat of war. Instructions have, however, been sent to commanders of English vessels to co-operate with German and American vessels to protect all trading stations against the Chinese.

Chinese.

The London rates of exchange on Hong Kong and Shanghal have become a penny stronger within the past week.

THE DEPARTURE OF THE CROWN PRINCE MADRID, Dec. 8 .- The Crown Prince Frederick William on taking his departure for Seville yester day left gifts of 25,000 pesetas to the servants of the royal palace and 50,000 pesetas for the Spanish military asylums. The Prince reiterated his expressions of the great pleasure he had experienced from the hearty welcome accorded him by the King, the Court, the Spanish army and the people.

LONDON, Dec. 8 .- The majority of the dispatches from Berlin to the London newspapers point to the proposed visit of the Crown Prince to the Pope and to the reinstatement of Bishop Blum to his diocese in "Imburg as events that indicate a conclusion of the difficulties between Prussia and the Vatican relative to Church affairs n Prussia. A Berlin dispatch says the chief officet of the journey of

the German Crown Prince to Rome is to reciprocate cor-dial attentions which have been paid to the German im-perial family by the royal family of Italy.

RUMORED MEETING OF EMPERORS. Berlin, Dèc. 8 .- Rumors are current here of another meeting of the Emperors of Germany, Russia

BRITISH EXCLUSION OF CHINESE. San Francisco, Dec. 8 .- A dispatch from Victoria, British Columbia, says: The House has passed resolution instructing the Government to introduce bill restricting Chinese immigration. The startling state

ment was made by the Provincial Secretary that ther were 3,000 destitute Chinese on the mainland who cal-only subsist by murdering and stealing, which they have already herein. THE FRENCH IN MADAGASCAR. Paris, Dec. 8.-Admiral Peyron, Minister of Marine, has received a dispatch from Admiral Galiber, commander of the French forces in Madagascan waters,

stating that the vessels of his fleet have destroyed several ports of the Hovas on the cast coast of the island, and have destroyed the port of Marawelta. Numerous fevers prevail among the French troops on shore.

THE INTERCOLONIAL CONFERENCE. SYDNEY, New South Wales, Dec. 8 .- The bill favoring the formation of a Federal Council, drawn up by the Intercolonial Conference, provides that each colony shall be represented by two members and the Grown by one member from each colony. There will be yearly ses sions. Any three of the colonies will be competent to summon an extra session. The first session is to be held at Hobart Town, Tasmania. The council will be invested with legislative authority regarding the relations of the colonics with the Pacific islands.

THE ATTEMPT TO MURDER M. DE LESSEPS LONDON, Dec. 8 .- A Paris dispatch says that M. Wennemackers, a Belgian engineer, has been arrested

at Nice, Italy, upon suspicion of being the author of the attempt to murder M. de Lesseps by an infernal machine. A quantity of dynamite cartridges was found at his lodgings.

PRIESTS IN IRELAND CENSURED.

LONDON, Dec. 8 .- A Rome dispatch to The Times states that the Moniteur de Rome, the Papal organ, strongly censures the Catholic clergy at Newry, Ireland, for their attitude during the recent agitation there. It especially condemns the sermon of Father MacCarten in the Cathedral at Newry last Sunday, in which he charac terized the action of the Government in prohibiting a Nationalist meeting there as having a tendency to drive the people to rebel and as a direct insult to the Catholic Church. The Moniteur de Rome also draws attention to a paragraph published in The United Ireland, of Dublin, asking its friends in London to furnish the addresses and biographies of the jurymen in the O'Donnell case, in order to enable their oblituaries to be prepared.

EMIGRATION FROM CANADA.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. OTTAWA, Dec. 8 .- The Dominion Government is greatly alarmed over the publication of the British Minister's report to the Imperial Government on emigration to the United States, more particularly that part of it relative to the large influx of settlers from Canada. Heretofore the Canadian Government has denied the accuracy tofore the Canadian Government has defined an accuracy of figures showing the exodus from Canada as published by the Bureau of Statistics at Washington, stating that they were falsified for the purpose of misrepresenting Canada and influencing the tide of emigration to the United States. Minister West's report staggers them, coming as it does from a British official whose loyalty would not permit him to misrepresent Canada in the interest of any other country. terest of any other country.

AFFAIRS IN THE DOMINION.

TORONTO, Dec. 8 .- A dispatch from Winni peg to The Globe says: "A large meeting of farmers was held at Rapids City last night, and the high tariff and railway monopoly were freely discussed. The Rev. Mr Crawford said: 'If we are to be trodden down by the other provinces I would advocate secession.' The citizens of Brandon met last night and indersed the action of the Farmers' Union. Deputations are being appointed in places all over the province to attend a convention at Winnipeg on December 19."

MONTHEAL, Dec. 8. - The affairs of the Exchange Bank taken by the directors to retain their power is condemned. The absconding president has been heard from. said that he is in New-York, where he is living in great

style.
Confirmation has been received here of Sir Charles Tupper's success in Paris in securing the making of a treaty for the benefit of the Dominion.

ATHENS, Dec. 8.—The Grecian Government has con-tracted a new loan of 168,000,000 drachmas, with inter-est at 5 per cent per annum. BERNE, Dec. 8 .- The authorities of the Canton of Valais have decided to reintroduce the death penalty as

LONDON, Dec. 8 .- The latest accounts of the duel be tween Baron Nicotera and Signor Lovito state that the ormer was slightly wounded and the latter severely in

LONDON, Dec. 8 .- A balloon has been picked up at sea off the coast of Portugal, which contained a watch, ar allitude indicator, 1,700 rels and some clothing,

THE GREAT SIOUX RESERVATION. DAKOTA PEOPLE ASK THAT IT BE OPENED TO SET-

INVITELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. PIERRE, Dak. Ter., Dec. 8.-At the delegate onvention held here to give an expression regarding the opening of the Sloux reservation, a memorial was adopted for presentation to Congress. It refers to the large di mensions of the tract, the scarcity of Indian population, the need which Dakota people have for its timber and the need which Dakota people have for its timor and coal, and for transportation across the reservation, and the large number of homeless and worthy people ready to come in and settle the country, if it be opened, Resolutions were adopted approximate the treaty made by the Sioux Commission, and asking Congress to ratify it as it stands, or with such modification as to compensation as Congress may deem just. The resolution also asks Delegate Baymond to introduce a bill for the opening of the reservation, and to use every effort to secure its passage.

LIBEL SUITS AGAINST NEWSPAPERS,

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Boston, Dec. 8 .- F. K. Ballou, one of the est-known contractors in this city, has begun libel suits gainst The Boston Daily Globe for \$20,000, and The New-York Times for \$40,000. The complaint is based upon statements affecting Mr. Ballou's integrity as a busness man. He was charged in dispatches to these newspapers with having run away from Mystle, Conn., leaving obligations to the amount of \$35,000. Mr. Ballou denie the charges. He says he took four Government contract in 1882 to build breakwaters at Nantucket, Stonington and New-Haven, and a dock on the Thames River. Owing to the increase in the price of labor he lost heavily, but he completed his contracts according to stipulations, his bondsmen losing nothing. He took down his detricks housed his engine, discharged his tow-boats and barges and openly left for Boston to procure money to pay off his men, and did not abscond as charged. mount of \$35,000. Mr. Hallou denie

AN ATTEMPT TO ABDUCT A YOUNG WOMAN.

Belfre, Ohio, Dec. 8 .- About 8 o'clock on Wednesday night a stranger knocked at the door of the girl answered the knock, and was told by the stranger that a Miss Hunter was waiting in a buggy in the street t see her. The servant gift started with the stranger, and when a few feet from the house he threw her apron over her face and, taking her up in bis arms, conveyed her to the carriage, in which was another man. They then drove rapidly away. When about two miles from town one of the men asked the girl if she was Lillie Lewis, the daughter of Parker Lewis. On her telling them she was not, they threw her out of the buggy, after giving her chloroform. She was picked up in an unconscious condition.

DIVORCE IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. S .- From the formation of the Federal Union up to the year 1868 South Caro-

lina enjoyed the distinction of being the only State in the federation, and doubtless the only one on the globe, without a divorce law upon her statute books. the State was reconstructed in 1868 a Republithe State was reconstructed in 1868 a Republi-can Legislature enacted such a law, which remained in force until 1877, when the Democrats succeeded to power. One of the first acts of the Democrats was to re-peal the divorce law. During the past six years several efforts have been made in the Legislature to provide some means for the legal dissolution of the marriage tie, but in each instance the proposition met with overwhelming de-feat. Yesterday the Senate again rejected such a bill, although it had been favorably reported by a majority of the Judiciary Committee.

THE CRUISE OF THE DAUNTLESS.

[BT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] NEWPORT. Dec. 8.—The schooner yacht Dauntless will sail for the Azores early next we from there will proceed to the Canary Islands and thence to Morocco. While at Morocco Mr. Colt and his guests will engage in shooting and boar hunting. The next place to be visited will be dibraltar. Sail will thence be set for Nice. The yacht will remain at Nice several weeks. The cruise will last at least six months. The yacht will return via Bermuda and the West Indies.

LONG DORMANT CASE OF HYDROPHOBIA.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Dec. 8 .- On June William Green, a highly respected resident of Anderson County, was bitten by a mad dog. The wound was County, was bitten by a mad dog. The wound was cauterized; it healed. Mr. Green thought no more about the matter till yesterday, when symptoms of hydrophobia were detected. He went into convulsions and died this evening in terrible agony.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES-BY TELEGRAPH.

WESLEY POSEY TO BE HANGED.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Dec. 8.—The negro, Wesley
Posey, who was convicted yesterday of an assault upon a
young white girl, was this morning sentenced to be hanged. young waite girl, was this morning sentenced to be hanged.

MENICAN MURDERERS LYNCHED.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Dec. 8.—It is reported that
our Mexicans, charged with the murder of Domingo Polomo,
icar Fort Davis, about four weeks ago, have been taken from
he authorities and igniched.

ACQUITTED OF THE CHARGE OF MURDER.
WILSESBARRS, Penn., Dec. 8.—The jury in
case of Franklin Monroe, on trial for the murler of San
McNeal at Hunlock's Creek, returned a verdict this aftern
of not guilty. of not guilty.

AN ARTILLERYMAN LOSES HIS HAND.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—While the District artillery was engaged in firing a salute to-day, in honor of the Mexican Veterans, an artilleryman, Charles C. Herbert, had his right hand blown off by the premature discharge of a carnol.

cannol.

AN UNKNOWN MAN KILLED IN SELF DEFENCE.

OWENSBOROUGH, Ky., Dec. 8.—An unknown man entered the house of E. Clark yesterlay and attacked his daughters with a club. He sas killed by Henry Eumpus, who was in the house. There was a picture on his person, taken in Sweden, but nothing to reveal his identity.

A NOTED BURGLAR SENTENCED.

BOSTON, Dec. 8.—Charles Williams colored, pleaded guilty to burglary here to-day and was sentenced to pleaded guilty to burglary here to-day and was sentenced to len years' imprisonment. He has been a successful burgler, carrying on his criminal practices in New-Jersey, Connecticut, Maine, Mar yland and New-York.

EXTENSIVE FRAUDS IN CITY CONTRACTS.

THE CORRUPT RING CONTROLLING IMPROVEMENTS.

A SYSTEM OF UNBALANCED BIDS OF THE WORST KIND.

THE LOSS TO THE TAXPAYERS AMOUNTING TO MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

THE METHODS OF THE OLD CANAL RING TRANSFERRED TO THE STREETS OF NEW-YORK-HOW THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ALLOWS PUBLIC MONEY TO BE MISUSED.

Careful investigation of department records by Tribune reporters reveals the existence in this city of a ring of contractors whose methods are similar to those of the Canal Ring, which was broken up eight years ago. But no effort has yet been made to break up the corrupt combination which is defrauding the taxpayers of New-York. A system of unbalanced bids, by which the public treasury suffers heavily, has grown to startling proportions in the Department of Public Works, under the eye of Commissioner Thompson. Misleading estimates of the work to be done are the rule rather than the exception in that department, and certain favored con\_ tractors succeed in obtaining secret information as to the real nature of the work which these misleading estimates cover. They are thus enabled to put in unbalanced bids at figures which result in large gains to them and serious losses to the city. The extraordinary nature of these bids may be imagined when it is known that the Department of Public Works is now paying on contracts still in force all the way from one cent to eight dollars per cubic yard for exactly the same kind of excavation. Honest contractors are driven out of the field by the ring of men who put in the unbalanced bids. These outrageous street contracts, of which the Public Works Department is full, result in the vacation of assessments on an extensive scale, throwing the whole burden of the expenditure on the city. By the vacation of assessments resulting from these abuses the municipal treasury has suffered to the extent of millions of dollars in the last few

NATURE OF THE SWINDLING SYSTEM. ESTIMATES INTENDED TO MISLEAD THOSE NOT IN

THE CONTRACTORS' RING. The system of unbalanced bids by means of which the old Canal ring swindled the State out of million of dollars was fully exposed in The Tribune in 1875. Recent investigations into the records of the Finance Department show that the same sys-tem of unbalanced bids exists to-day in several departments of the City Government. Within a comparatively few years it has caused the loss of millions of dollars to the city Treasury. Although the system existed under Tweed when he was at the head of the Department of Public Works, it is carried on to a greater extent there to-day than ever before. It has increased enormously in recent years. Nearly all the contracts for street improvements, which cost the city over \$2,000,000 in 1882, are made on unbalanced bids. The estimates under which these contracts are let are often prepared in such a way that the expense to the taxpayers proves to be ten

times the original amount of the contractor's bid. The exact nature of an unbalanced bid is easily illustrated. It always depends upon misleading estimates. If there is to be really a large amount of earth excavation and a small amount of rock excavation, the estimates reverse the amounts. Bids are invited for a small amount of earth excavation and a large amount of rock excavation. A contractor knowing the truth concealed by the estimates bids a nominal price for rock and a big price for earth. In that way on the face of the estimates his total bid will be low. But as he is paid by the cubic yard, according to the returns on the completed work, his bid will in the end turn out to be the highest, and the city is consequently defrauded. If a contractor bids 1 cent per cubic yard for excavating rock and \$2 per cubic yard for excavating earth, the bid is plainly "unbalanced." It is out of all reason, and shows at a glance that it is not honest. But the departments are full of contracts made on just such bids.

THE ERRORS IN THE ESTIMATES. Alleged errors of a startling character have been discovered in the estimates prepared by engineers errors (f) before he makes his bid, and is thus able to secure contracts at figures out of all proportion to the value of the work. Contractors have been paid over \$100,000 for work on which their total bid was less than \$15,000. John Brady, a contractor in the Public Works Department, is receiving \$8 a cubic yard for excavating earth, while the value of the work is not more than fifty cents a cubic yard. Michael Finn, another contractor, is receiving \$7.90 a cubic yard for the same work; and D. K. Gallagher is receiving \$5 50. In the Park Department J. W. O'Grady was recently paid \$50 a cubic yard for excavating rock, while another contractor was doing similar work for \$2 a cubic yard, which was a fair price. In the Public Works Department again J. D. Moore was paid \$10 a cubic yard for rock excavation, and other contractors have been paid from \$2 to \$6 a yard for the same work, the fair value of which was established by the Assessment Commis-

sion at less than \$2 a cubic yard. Differences of an equally startling character exist in all other kinds of work which is done by contract in the Public Works Department, and which is paid for by the issue of city interest-bearing bonds. In street-paving contracts Thomas Gearty was paid \$3 48 a square yard, W. A. Cumming \$2 95, and Charles Guidet \$2 47, while other contractors did the same work for \$1.56 and \$1.57 a square yard. J. Phelan was \$165 each for receiving basins, while John McKim & Son furnished basins of the same kind for \$100. One contractor is paid \$40 a thousand feet for lumber which another one

furnishes for \$20. In advertising contracts estimates are prepared for each item in the work. In regulating and grading a street, for instance the engineers are supposed to make careful surveys, and to present securate estimates of the quantity of earth and rock to be excavated. The contractor then bids a price per yard for each kind of work. The lowest total bid according to the estimated quantities determines to whom the contract shall be given. But the contractor is paid his price per yard without regard to the estimates. The estimates are often fictitious, and this is known to contractors. By means of this knowledge they are able to get enormously high rates for work, while contractors who do not know the inside facts are prevented rom securing such contracts. The result is shown by the following table, which gives the bids of contractors on estimated prices of work, and the

cost to the city: , \$15,676

\*Contract unfinished.

These are but specimens of many that have been made within a comparatively short time. It has been shown by testimony before the Assessment Commission that contractors have been paid in full for work only partly done. In one case a contractor was paid for taking out 6,788 cubic yards of rock which is still in the street. The most friendly relations exist between the contractors, many of them going on the bonds of their competitors, and there is plenty of evidence to prove the existence of a contractors' ring such as existed on the canals at the time of the frauds exposed in 1875. The money used to pay these contractors is raised by the issue of city bonds, hence the practice has escaped the scrutiny and publicity that would have being any improvement, matters are growing

followed if it had come before the Board of Estimate or the Sinking Fund Commission. MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF ASSESSMENTS VACATED.

In conducting the street improvements under which these contracts have been made, the Commissioner of Public Works and the Park Commissioners act in the capacity of trustees for the owners of the property benefited by the improvements. The law requires that the fair cost of any work of this kind be assessed on the property benefited. The city does the work and pays for it by the issue of bonds which are to be paid off when the assessments are collected from the owners of the property benefited. But the losses caused by any breach of trust on the part of the city have to be met out of the city treasury. The assessed property-owners go into the courts and prove that the cost of the work is excessive and the courts vacate the assessments. The loss is then added to the city debt, which is paid by general taxation.

Since 1876 the city has lost \$3,263,431 by vacated assessments, nearly all caused by unbalanced bids. But that is not one-half the total loss. The courts have decided that the fact that the work was done by contract under public letting is no excuse for excessive cost, as the city was not bound to accept such contracts. Hence, under advice of the Corporation Counsel, and in order to save to the city at least a part of the amounts paid on assessment work, the Board of Aldermen has recently assessed property-owners only what the Board considers the fair value of the work done without regard to the contracts made by the Commissioner of Public Works or the Park Board. The excess of cost over the amount levied in the assessment is charged, among other matters, to a fund called Deficiencies in Assessments. This fund, which represents a total

loss to the city, now amounts to \$4,484,356. But this does not cover all the loss. There is an Assessment Commission, created by the laws of 1880 to reduce assessments when the cost of the work is excessive. Nearly all the cases coming before this Commission arise from claims of propertyowners for relief because of unbalanced bids. During the past week the Commission made a rein one case of \$9,998 because the work was done under an unbalanced-bid contract. At employed by the Public Works Department. At the same time, in another case, the Commission made least one contractor in every case is aware of these | a reduction of \$106,484. They discovered among other irregularities, that the contractor had received pay for excavating 27,000 cubic yards of rock at \$2 per cubic yard, although the rock had not been taken out. Altogether the Assessment Commission has made reductions amounting to over \$1,000,000. and in addition has returned nearly half a million dollars to property-owners who had paid excessive assessments Besides all that, the city loses the interest which it has paid on assessment bonds issued to pay contractors for work on which reductions

and vacations have been made. Altogether since 1876 there has been a loss to the city treasury of over \$6,000,000 because of frauds, arregularities and excessive cost in assessment work. Nearly all this loss has been caused by unbalanced

bids. HOW TAXPAYERS HAVE BEEN FLEECED.

DETAILS OF THE UNBALANCED BIDS-CONTRACTS CORRUPT ON THEIR FACE.

The evils growing out of these unbalanced bids can be shown best by illustrating the method of preparing false estimates. In the estimates prepared for a proposed street improvement it was stated that there were required 15,000 cubic feet of rock excavation and 5,000 feet of earth excavation, when in reality the figures should be reversed. A contractor in the secret would bid a high price for the earth excavation and a low price for the rock excavation. As the contract was to be given to the lowest bidder on the total amount of the bid, the result would be that the contractor who knew that the estimates were misleading would secure the work at a fraudulent figure. A contractor not in the secret, but relying on the fairness of the estimate of the Public Works Department, would bid

about as follows: 15,000 cubic yards rock excavation at \$1.35 per yard. 5,000 cubic yards earth excavation at 40c. per yard. 2,000 Total.... The contractor who knew that the estimates were

misleading, and that there would be 15,000 cubis yards of earth and 5,000 of rock, would bid as fol-15,000 cubic yards rock excavation at 10c. per

5,000 cubic yards earth excavation at \$3 per yard. 15,000 916,000 The second bid being \$5,750 lower than the tirst,

of course the honest bidder loses the contract. But when the work is finally paid for by the city the account of the favored contractor is as follows: 5,000 cubic yards rock excavation at 10 cents per

yard 15,000 cubic yards of earth excavation at \$3 per yard 845 500 Total ..... In this way the favored contractor by his unbalanced bid, gets \$32,750 more for the same work than it would have cost the city at the honest bidder's rates, and the city is swindled out of that

sum. This is no fancy sketch, but a practical illustration of what is going on daily in the Department of Public Works. In March last the Mayor's attention was called to a contract let in this way which cost the city \$26,740, although the estimate of the Public Works Department was for \$8,205 only. The estimate of the Department on another contract was for \$4,800, but the city paid more than three

times that amount to the contractor. A SAMPLE CONTRACT ANALYZED. Careful examination of contracts on file in the Finance Departments shows that instead of there